

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 08006 231623Z

45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 CU-02 OMB-01 /074 W

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R 230715Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 772

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, AF

SUBJ: EXIT PAZHWAKS

REF: A) KABUL 7758 B) KABUL 7946 NOTAL

SUMMARY: RECENT SHAKEUPS OF GOVERNORSHIP OF HELMAND AND AT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAVE UNSEATED TWO MEMBERS OF PAZHWAK FAMILY, LONG PROMINENT IN " AFGHAN ESTABLISHMENT". A THIRD MEMBER, CURRENTLY AMBASSADOR AT NEW DELHI, ALSO RUMORED ON HIS WAY OUT. THROUGH POSSIBILITY EXISTS THIS DEMONSTRATES SOME BASIC CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT OUTLOOK-ORIENTATION, EMBASSY MUCH MORE INCLINED TO PUT THIS DOWN AS TRADITIONAL FAMILIA SQUABBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. WITHIN LAST TEN DAYS TWO MEMBERS OF THE PROMINENT PAZHWAK FAMILY HAVE LOST THEIR POSTIONS. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED DEC. 10 (REF A) THAT FAZEL RIBI PAZHWAK, THEN GOVERNOR OF HELMAND PROVINCE, WAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO KABUL TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR -- AN OBVIOUS DEMOTION TO A POSITION OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE. ON DECEMBER 18 GOVERNMENT MEDIA ANNOUNCED THAT DR. NAHMATTULLAH PAZHWAK, FAZEL RABI'S NEPHEW, HAD RESIGNED HIS POSITION AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION FOR "REASONS OF HEALTH" (REF B).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 08006 231623Z

2. THESE DEMOTIONS WERE FOLLOWED BY CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT THE FALL OF THESE TWO PAZHWAKS WILL INVOLVE ABDUL RAHMAN PAZHWAK, BROTHER OF THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF HELMAND AND PRESENTLY AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO NEW DELHI. THIS CERTAINLY WILL PROVE TRUE IF, AS ONE RUMOR HAS IT, THE INCENSED AMBASSADOR REFUSED TO MEET PRSIDENTIAL ENVOY MAIM AT DELHI AIRPORT AS HE PASSED ENROUTE FROM TOKYO TO KABUL.

3. THERE HAS BEEN SPATE OF RUMORS CONCERNING THIS SQUABBLE INVOLVING MEMBERS OF "AFGHAN ESTABLISHMENT" OF GOOD CREDENTIALS AND MANY YEARS STANDING. FOR EXAMPLE, PAZHWAKS WERE RUMORED TO HARBOR PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRATIONS. ANOTHER STORY HAS IT THAT NAHMATTULLAH PAZHWAK HAD ASSEMBLED COTERIE OF YOUNGER PROTEGES WHOM HE SOUGHT TO PROMOTE AND MAKE INTERCHANGEABLE DURING TOURS AS MININTERIOR AND MINEDUCATION. YET ANOTHER LINE IS THAT NAHMATTULLAH'S REPUTATION AS "LEFTIST" AND MEMBER OR ASSOCIATE AMONG PARCHAMISTS HAD CAUSED MORE CONSERVATIVE AFGHANS TO SHARPEN KNIVES AGAINST HIM AND USE WHATEVER MEANS OF BRINGING HIS DOWNFALL. SIMILAR CASE BEING MADE IN SOME QUARTERS AGAINST FORMER HELMAND GOVERNOR FAZEL RABI, WHOSE SUBORDINATE KESHAWARZ, HEAD OF HELMAND-AFGHANDAB VALLEY ASSOCIATION (HAVA) WAS VOCIFEROUS IN DENOUNCING (TO AMERICANS) GOVERNORS'S "COMMUNIST LEANINGS". ANOTHER BIT OF SPECULATION WAS OCCASIONED BY TIMING OF RESIGNATION OF NAHMATTULAH (WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF AFGHAN-RUSSIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY) WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING VISIT TO CHINA BY PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY NAIM.

4. A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE SUPPLIED YET ANOTHER STORY , ONE WHICH HAS A CERTAIN RING OF AFGHAN AUTHENTICITY. ACCORDING TO THIS VERSION GOVERNOR PAZHWAK HAD RUN-IN WITH HIS LOCAL DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION. WHEN LATTER BROUGHT THE MATTER UP WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION PAZHWAK, HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO AN INTERIOR POSTION IN THE SMALLER PROVINCE OF ZABUL. THERE HE RAISED MATTER WITH GOVERNOR OF ZABUL, WHO IN TURN WENT TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR WHO IN TURN WENT TO PRESIDENT DAOUD WITH A STORY OF PAZHWAKS COVERING FOR PAZHWAKS. RESULT WAS IRRITATION OF PRESIDENT AND REMOVAL OF BOTH PAZHWAKS AND APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR OF ZABUL, MOHD. ABDUL SHERZOI, AS GOVERNOR OF THE HELMAND.

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PAGE 03 KABUL 08006 231623Z

5. PAZHWAK REMOVALS SOMETHING OF MIXED BLESSING FOR U.S. PROGRAMS AND AIMS. WE FEEL LITTLE REGRET AT HELMAND GOVERNOR PAZHWAK DEPARTURE, FOR HE WAS POOR ADMINISTRATOR WHO SUFFERED FREQUENTLY STORMY RELATIONSHIP WITH BUREAUCRATIC ASSOCIATES AND COMMUNITY. HIS REPLACEMENT SHERZOI IS LITTLE KNOWN QUANTITY, A FORMER ARMY OFFICER. AT LEAST ONE BUREAUCRATIC KINK MAY BE STRAIGHTENED: HAVA NOW REPORTS TO MININTERIOR RATHER THAN AGRICULTURE, CONTRIBUTING AT LEAST POSSIBILITY OF COHERENT

DEVELOPMENT WHERE BEFORE THERE HAD BEEN "DUAL SATRAPIES".
MINEDUCATION PAZHWAK UNDERSTOOD AID OBJECTIVES AND DELIVERED ON
HIS BUREAUCRATIC PROMISES. AT SAME TIME HE APPEARED SUSPICIOUS
OF PEACE CORPS AND WOULD HAVE SWEEPED PROVINCES CLEAN OF VOLUNTEERS
HAD NOT HIS DIRECTOR FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION PREVAILED IN KEEPING
AT LEAST A FEW. IT WAS PAZHWAK WHO CAUSED SUS-
PENSION OF AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE EXCHANGES. MINISTER OF MINES
AND INDUSTRIES ABDUL KAYEUM (WARDAK) REPLACES PAZHWAK AT EDUCA-
TION. THROUGH PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS THAT HE WAS TAPPED
PRINCIPALLY FOR LOYALTY TO REGIME, KAYEUM IS U.S. TRAINED
PHYSICIST WHOSE EXPERIENCE INCLUDES YEARS OF TEACHING AND A
DEANSHIP AT KABUL UNIVERSITY. HE IS COMPETENT BUREAUCRAT
WITH WHOM US OFFICIALS HAVE DEALT BEFORE AND CAN AGAIN.

6. HOWEVER TEMPTING IT IS TO PUT PAZHWAK ELIPSE INTO
TERMS OF "PURGE OF LEFTISTS", IT FAR MORE LIKELY A FAMILY
SQUABBLE IN MURKY (TO US) MISTS OF TRADITIONAL AFGHAN POLITICS.
ONLY IF PAZHWAK DEPARTURES FOLLOWED BY THAT OF ONE OR MORE
OTHER NOTABLE "LEFTISTS" (E.G. MINAG BAKTARI OR MININT FAIZ
MOHAMMAD) MIGHT WE TEND TO BELIEVE DAOUD HAS EMBARKED ON
DELIBERATE CHANGE IN POLITICAL COMPLEXION HIS REGIME.
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